

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2824

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 2149

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CI, BR

SUBJ: CHILE-BRAZIL RELATIONS

1. SANTIAGO PRESS APRIL 9 CARRIES REPORT FROM BRASILIA STATING THAT GENERAL SERGIO ARELLANO STARK, CHIEF OF CHILEAN NATIONAL DEFENSE STAFF AND PRESIDENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE OF CHILE, HAS ARRIVED IN BRAZIL WITH A DELEGATION COMPOSED OF COMMUNICATIONS TECHNICIANS. STATED PURPOSE IS TO STUDY FEASIBILITY OF LINKING BRAZIL TO ANDEAN PACT COUNTRIES THROUGH MICROWAVE AND SATELLITE. DEPARTURE OF CHILEAN GROUP FOR BRASILIA HAD NOT PREVIOUSLY BEEN MENTIONED HERE.

2. PERHAPS WE ARE OVERLY SUSPICIOUS, BUT WE FIND IT INTERESTING THAT, SOME DAYS AGO, BRAZILIAN AMBASSADOR HAD TO CANCEL INVITATION TO AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE BECAUSE OF SUDDEN SUMMONS TO RETURN HOME, AND THAT AMBASSADOR ENRIQUE BERSTEIN, OLD AND TRUSTED POLITICAL ADVISER OF CHILEAN FONOFF, WAS ALSO IN BRAZIL.

3. IN THE FACE OF ITS DIFFICULTIES RE ARMS SUPPLY AND FINANCIAL STRINGENCY, GOC LOGICALLY LOOKS TO BRAZIL AS A GENERALLY SYMPATHETIC SISTER NATION
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FROM WHOM IT MIGHT SEEK AID. GENERAL ARELLANO

IS A FORCEFUL MILITARY LEADER, AND POSSIBLE CANDIDATE TO
HEAD CHILEAN ARMY WHEN GENERAL PINOCHET RELINQUISHES
HIS COMMAND. HE HAS JUST BEEN MOVED INTO HIS NEW JOB,
AND WE DOUBT HE WOULD FIND IT PROFITABLE TO SPEND
MUCH TIME IN BRASILIA FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS PLANNING
PURPOSES.

4. WE WOULD APPRECIATE KNOWING OF ANY INDICATION THAT SOME NEW
CHILEAN-BRAZILIAN ARRANGEMENT IS IN PROSPECT.
POPPER

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NNN

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